Survey on quality of medicines

† 649. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per a survey in the country, ten per cent medicines are of inferior quality;

(b) if not, what is Government's estimate in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to constant increase in the business of inferior quality and spurious medicines, medical system is getting adversely affected; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The prescribed quality norms for drugs are based on various parameters. Failure or deviation from any of the parameter may result in declaration of the drug as "Not of Standard Quality".

As per information available from State Drug Control Organization 8.9%, 8.63% and 8.56% of samples were reported as sub standard/inferior quality during the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

(c) & (d) No such specific reports are available with Government indicating increase in the business of inferior quality and spurious medicines and medical system getting adversely affected due to it.

Chances for bird flu in India

650. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is every chance of bird flu in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKALAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Death of poultry had been reported from Navapur Taluka of District Nandurbar, Maharashtra, Preliminary investigations had indicated the possibility of Newcastle (Raniket) disease but confirmed as Avion Influenza H5NI by High Security Animal Disease Laboratory (HSADL), Bhopal.

A series of strategic actions have been initiated immediately on confirmation of Avian Influenza. The contingency plans have been put into operation. These action include declaration of infected (3 Kms.) and surveillance areas (upto 10 Kms), absolute ban on movement of poultry or its products in infected areas, closure of poultry and egg markets and shops, destruction of affected poultry followed by proper disposal and vaccination of birds in the surveillance are etc. Containment operation will extend to cover some poultry in adjoining areas in Uchchhal Tehsil of Surat district in Gujarat State also.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India deputed its Rapid Response teams to Maharashtra on 16th February and to Gujarat on 19th February, 2006. The teams are in the field and assisting the State Health authorities in carrying out active surveillance to identify suspected cases among contacts of infected poultry. Adequate quantity of Tamilflu and personal protective equipments are available to meet any exigency.

There is active surveillance for those who had come in to contact with poultry and all those reported to have symptoms of even upper respiratory tract infections are isolated and kept under observation following strict infection control practices. There are however no reports of any human cases of Avian Influenza.

Earlier, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had intimated a number of preparedness measures which includes monitoring by inter ministerial group, nation consultation and preparation of contingency plan which has been circulated to all State and districts, stockpiling of oseltamivir (Tamilflu) and personal protective equipments etc.

The situation is being closely monitored and under control.